

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Water Conservation Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans

- **Reclamation Reform Act 1982 (RRA)**
  - Required Agricultural and M & I water contractors to provide Water Management Plans (Plans)
  - Each Plan shall contain definite goals, water conservation measures, and a time schedule to meet these objectives
  - Plans need to be updated every 5 years

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# Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans

- **Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992**
  - Required establishment of an office on water conservation and best management practices
  - This office was required to develop Criteria for Evaluating Plans and must review the criteria at least every three years

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# Standard Criteria

- Management approval
- Public scoping
- Public response
- Finalized

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# Standard Criteria

- **Criteria include the following:**
  - **District description**
    - History, Facilities, Water Measurement, Pricing and Billing, etc.
  - **Inventory of Water Resources**
    - Surface and Groundwater Supplies, Conjunctive Use, Water Shortage Contingency Plans, etc.
  - **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
    - Agricultural and Urban

# Best Management Practices Agricultural

## 5 required BMPs

- Water Measurement
- Water Conservation Coordinator
- Promote Water Management Services
- Pricing Structure
- Evaluate and Improve Contractor Pump Efficiencies

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# Best Management Practices Agricultural

## 12 Exemptible BMPs

- Facilitate alternative land use
- Facilitate use of recycled water
- Facilitate financing programs for improved on-farm water management
- Incentive pricing
- Line or pipe ditches and canals
- Regulatory reservoirs
- Increase flexibility of water ordering and delivery
- Spill and tailwater recovery systems
- Plan to measure outflow
- Optimize conjunctive use
- Automate Canal Structures
- GIS

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# Best Management Practices Urban

- **3 Compliance methods**
  - **Traditional BMP list (widgets)**
    - **Standard BMPs by category**
      - **Foundational**
        - » Education
        - » Utility Operations
      - **Programmatic**
        - » Landscape
        - » Residential
        - » CII
  - **Flex Track**
    - **Allows agency to fit program to their needs**
    - **Must implement Foundational**

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# Best Management Practices Urban

- **3 Compliance methods, con't**
  - GPCD (gallons per capita per day) option
    - 18% reduction by 2018
- Reporting website at [www.cuwcc.org](http://www.cuwcc.org) under construction
- WMP due 6 months from website &  $\beta$  testing complete
  - Allow agencies to fully utilize flex track/GPCD options



# Significant Changes to the Criteria

- Reformatted, streamlined, easier to read
- Consequences of Non-Compliance
- Plans are to be submitted electronically

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# Significant Changes to the Criteria

- **Removed one required BMP:**
  - Evaluate Policies of Regulatory Agencies Affecting the Contractor and Identify Policies that Inhibit Good Water Management
  - This component is now addressed under Section 1: Description of the District
- **Agricultural BMP 2: Designate a Water Conservation Coordinator**
  - Need to provide additional information including job description and duties
- **Water measurement – documentation in support of verifying measurement accuracy (e.g. +/-6%) must be submitted**

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# Planning and Implementation Resources

- Updated Guidebook (available May 2011)
- Website-- <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/>
- Area Office Representatives
- Grant opportunities
  - WaterSMART
  - Water Conservation Field Services
  - CALFED WUE

# Other Considerations

- **SBx 7-7**
  - 2 Methods for compliance are based upon BMPs and GPCD option
  - Ag plans accepted by USBR also comply with State Water Management Plan requirements
- In 2012, Plans due every 5 years regardless of approval date

# Questions?

- **Contact your Area Office Water Conservation Specialist with questions or contact me:**

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